

## **UNDERSTANDING GOD**

Isaiah 55:8-9 ... “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

When we have spoken here previously about the importance of learning God’s character, we are not suggesting that we can fully understand everything God does. Much of what God has planned and the actions he takes, will remain mysteries to us no matter how hard we speculate or guess. God’s character and God’s ways are different.

His character is the motivation behind his actions, and the heart he has for his people. God encourages us to learn about his character and to live accordingly, because if we satisfy him we will have peace and joy.

God’s ways, on the other hand, are not meant to be fully understood. Today’s verse tells us that our thoughts are not God’s thoughts, and the decisions we make are not the same decisions God makes. If you had the mind of God, and every decision you made using your own intelligence and knowledge was perfect, you would not need God. The most foolish thing you can do is to ignore God and live by your own wisdom. Millions of people have thumbed their noses at God and sent themselves to hell in the process.

If you are struggling to understand God and everything he does, you are wasting your time and generating frustration, which could lead to doubt and faithlessness. God has no intention of explaining to you everything he does. Instead, he wants you to understand his character, which demonstrates his heart and his desires for you. God’s character is imprinted across every page of your Bible. His character is spoken to you through his Holy Spirit.

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